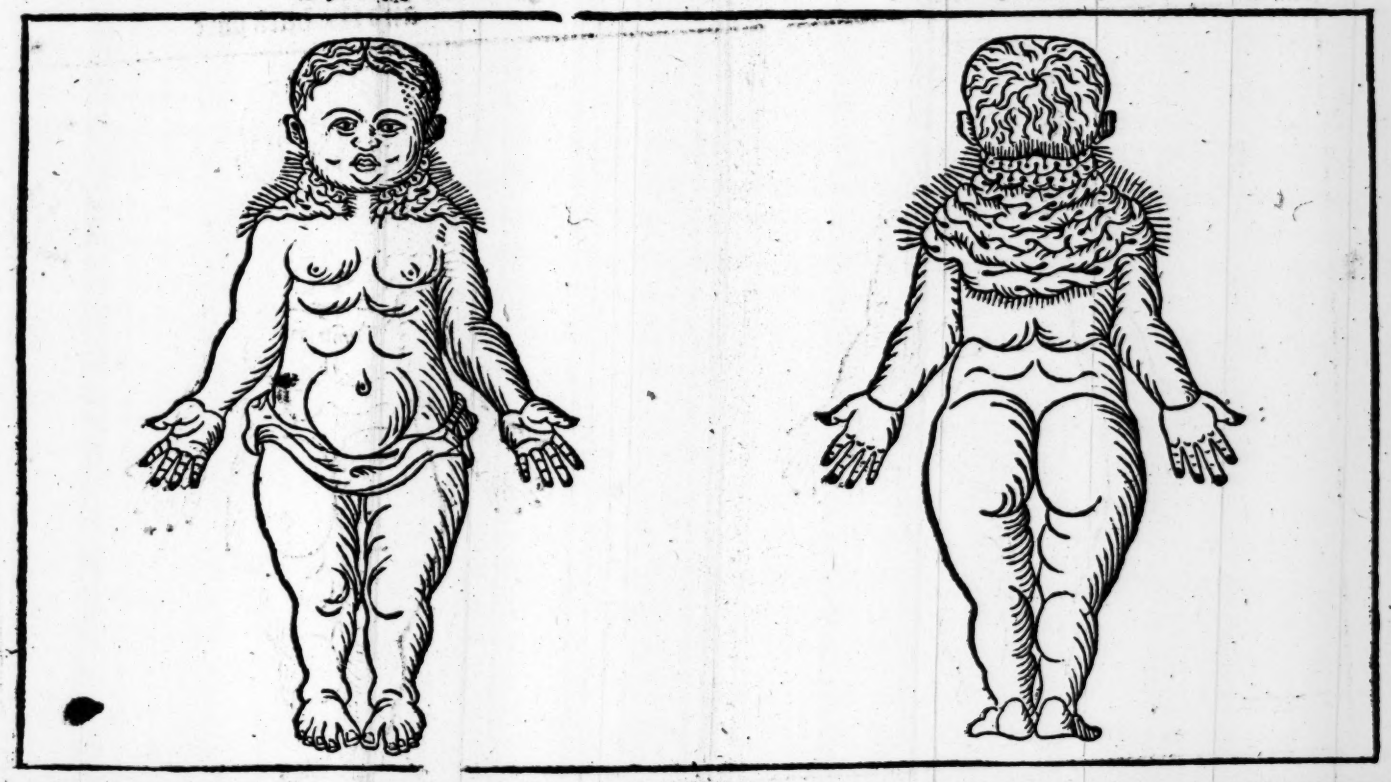
¶ The true discripcion of a Childe with Ruffes borne in the parish of Mycheham in the Cõtie of Surrey in the yeere of our Lord. M.D.Lvi.

The for part and the back part



THis p̄sẽt yeere of our Lor M.D.Lvi the .vii. day of June one Helene Jermin the wife of John Jermin Husbandman Dwelling in the parishe of Mycheham was deliuered of a Woman Childe named Christiã beeing after this maner & fourme following. That is to say, the Face comly & of a cheerful countenaũce. The Armes and hands, Leggs and Feet of right shape, and the Body w all other members thereunto appertenig, wel proporciõed in due fourme & order, sauing ẏ it is as it were wunderfully clothed with suche a Fleshy skin as the like at no time hath ben seene. For it hath the said fleshy skin behinde like vnto a Neckerchef growing from the veines of the Back vp vnto the neck as it were with many Ruffes set one after another and beeing as it were sowed, euery Ruf about an inche brode hauig here growing on the edges of the same, & so w Ruffes cõming ouer ẏ Shoulders and couering some part of ẏ Armes proceding vp vnto the nape of the neck behinde and almoste round about the neck, like as many womens Gownes be, not cloce to gither before: but that the throte beeing (with a faire white skin) bare betweene bothe the sides of the ruffes, the said ruffes about the neck beeing double and as it were thick gathered, muche like vnto the Ruffes that many do vse to weare about their necks.

¶ This Childe before said (the day of the date vnder written) was to be seene in Glene Alley in Suthwark beeing aliue and x weeks olde and iii i. dayes not vnlikly to liue long.

¶ An Admonition vnto the Reader,

THis picture prest in paper white,
our natures doth declare:
Whose fourme so straunge by tures spite
may lerne vs to beware.

¶ By natures spite, what do I saye?
doth nature rule the rost?
Nay god it is say wel I may:
by whom nature is tost.

¶ The face ful faire, the members all,
in order stand and place:
But yet to muche: by natures thrall,
doth work a great disgrace.

¶ This ruffeling world in ruffes al rolde,
doth God detest and hate:
As we may lerne the tale wel tolde,
of Childzen borne of late.

What meanes this childe by natures work
thus Ruffed for to be?
But by these Ruffes our natures spurk,
we might be holde and se.

Her squares our squaring doth set out,
this here our heres doth checke:
This monstrouse monster out of dout,
agreeth in eche respect.

¶ Our filthy liues in Pigge are thewd,
our Pride this Childe doth bere:
Our ragge and Ruffes that are so lewd,
beholde her flesshe and pere.

¶ Our Beaste and Cattel plagued are,
all monstrouse in their shape:
And eke this Childe bothwel declare,
the pride we vse of late.

¶ Our curled here her here doth preche:
our ruffes and gises gaie:
Our straunge attire wherto we reche,
our flesshe that plese we may.

¶ The poet telleth how Daphenes was,
transformed into a tre:
And Io to a Cow did passe,
a straunge thing for to se.

¶ But poets tales may passe and go,
as trifels and vntrueth:
When ruffes of flesshe as I do trowe,
shall moue vs vnto ruthe.

¶ Deformed are the things we were,
deformed is our hart:
The Lord is wroth with all this gere,
repent for fere of smarte.

¶ Pray we the Lord our harte to turn,
whilest we haue time and space:
Lest that our soules in hel do burn,
for holding of his grace.

¶ And ẏ O England whose womãkinde,
in ruffes do walke to oft:
Perswade them stil to bere in minde,
this Childe with ruffes so soft.

¶ In fourme as they in nature so,
a maid she is in dede:
God graunt vs grace how euer we go,
for to repent with spede.

FINIS. q Ÿ B.

¶ Imprinted at London by John Allde and Richarde Johnes and are to be solde at the Long Shop adioining vnto S. Mildreds Churche in the Poultrie and at the litle shop adioinning to the Northwest doore of Paules Churche. Anno domini, M.D.Lvi. the .xx. of August